

DDI/EURA

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**Talking Points for DDI
Yugoslavia: Serious Strains Developing**

The push by Serbian party chief Slobodan Milosevic (pronounced Mee-LOH-sheh-veech) for his Serbian nationalist agenda is increasing the chance of a national political confrontation or widespread violence in the coming weeks.

- Milosevic's immediate goal is for the Republic of Serbia to gain greater control over its two autonomous provinces (Kosovo and Vojvodina). He is trying to intimidate other regional leaders into supporting constitutional amendments that would strengthen Serbian authority by encouraging massive Serb demonstrations in their regions.
- We believe Milosevic's longer-term goal probably is to reestablish Serbia's hegemony in Yugoslavia with himself as the dominant, Tito-like leader. []

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Milosevic has strong grassroots support among Serbs and is determined to push ahead against all odds. But he faces strong obstacles.

- Most other regions bristle at Milosevic's aims and tactics and are trying to preserve the current regional balance and consensual decisionmaking system.
- Milosevic's support in the Serbian party may not run deep, and it could erode quickly if he fails to make progress on his agenda. []

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National leaders are taking modest first steps toward constraining Milosevic. The Communist Party leadership several days ago adopted stands that appear to give Serbia only minor constitutional changes. Most republics seem to have curtailed Serb demonstrations in their regions, depriving Milosevic of a political tool. []

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Milosevic, nonetheless, will continue to push hard for his agenda in the runup to a national Central Committee plenum set for 17 October. Demonstrations in Kosovo and Serbia may turn violent, and Milosevic could still refuse to accept nationally agreed policies. []

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